



VA Medical Center
510 Butler Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25405
www.martinsburg.va.gov
www.facebook.com/martinsburgvamc
www.twitter.com/martinsburgvamc



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 26, 2013

Contact:
Richard Nappi
304-263-0811, ext. 4013
MWV-PublicAffairs@va.gov

Martinsburg VAMC Domiciliary closes temporarily during mold abatement

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center's (VAMC) Domiciliary closed last Friday after the facility's Safety Office tested and found common mold present in the fan coils of hotel-style, stand-alone air-conditioning units.

To ensure the safety of patients, visitors and staff, the patients who reside in the affected buildings are being temporarily relocated. The process to remove the mold is expected to take about 60 days.

"The safety of our Veterans, visitors and staff is paramount in all that we do," said Dr. Jonathan Fierer, Martinsburg VAMC chief of staff. "Although the health risks from this type of mold exposure are very low, the medical center leadership felt the best course of action was to move all Domiciliary patients until the remediation process is complete in all Domiciliary buildings."

The affected hotel-style air-conditioning units are stand-alone units not connected to other buildings on campus or any HVAC ductwork. Measures have been taken to secure and safeguard the affected areas. These measures include closing the affected areas and limiting entry only to authorized construction personnel. The process to remove the mold began Saturday, Aug. 24 and is expected to be completed in about 60 days.

"During the cleanup process, the delivery of care to our patients and the medical center's daily operational activities will not be interrupted," said Ann R. Brown, medical center director. "We are making every effort to ensure this process is as smooth

-more-

222 – Martinsburg VAMC Domiciliary closes temporarily

and expeditious as possible, so that our Veterans can move back into their rooms as quickly as possible.”

Additional information will be released as it becomes available. If patients have any questions or concerns, they can call the Martinsburg VA Medical Center’s Information Hotline for up-to-date information 304-579-2605.

All media inquiries should be directed to the Public Affairs Office at 304-263-0811, ext. 4013 or to MWV-PublicAffairs@va.gov.

The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the medical center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women’s health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 130,000 Veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the medical center operates four VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Fort Detrick, Md., and Stephens City, Va. and three contract clinics in Franklin and Petersburg, W.Va. and Harrisonburg, Va.